

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00058 261540Z

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 DOTE-00 AID-05 /035 W

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R 261045Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2381

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS PARAMARIBO 0058

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: BTIO ETRD EAID ECRE US NL NS

SUBJ: MORRISON-KNUDSEN WINS RAILROAD TENDER

REF: 75 PARAMARIBO A-55

1. US CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING FIRM OF MORRISON-KNUDSEN, BOISE, IDAHO, HAS BEEN AWARDED GOVERNMENT CONTRACT TO BUILD RAILROAD FROM BAKHUYS BAUXITE DEPOSITS TO APOERA IN WESTERN SURINAM. THIS IS ONE OF THE LARGEST INDIVIDUAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN SURINAMESE HISTORY AND THE LARGEST CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARDED TO AN AMERICAN ENGINEERING FIRM IN SURINAM SINCE ALCOA COMPLETED AFOBAKKA DAM IN 1964.

2. CONSTRUCTION OF THE 80 KILOMETER RAILROAD WILL MAKE POSSIBLE EXPLOITATION OF UNTAPPED BAKHUYS DEPOSITS AND IS PART OF VAST DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR WESTERN SURINAM, INCLUDING NEW PORT FACILITIES AT CORANTIJN RIVER TOWN OF APOERA ALUMINUM PLANT AND AN ALUMINUM SMELTER, HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANTS ON TRIBUTARIES OF THE KABALEBO RIVER, PALM OIL AND OTHER PLANTATIONS ALONG THE RAILROAD, AND NEW TOWNS. TOTAL INVESTMENT IN WESTERN SURINAM COULD EXCEED \$1 BILLION IF LOGTERM PLAN IS FULLY REALIZED. AMERICAN FIRMS WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO BID ON OTHER GOVERNMENT-FINANCED PROJECTS IN WESTERN SURINAM AS TENDERS ARE PREPARED; EMBASSY WILL REPORT.

3. RAILROAD IS BEING FINANCED BY \$55 MILLION DUTCH GRANT, PLUS LOCAL FINANCING TO THE EXTENT NEEDED. AMPLE FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NETHERLANDS AID PIPEINE (NF 4.35 BILLION OVER 10 - 15 YEARS)

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AND FROM SURINAM'S OWN BAUXITE LEVY REVENUES TO MAKE REALIZA-

TION OF MUCH OF THE WESTERN SURINAM PLAN A REALISTIC PROSPECT.

4. SIGNATURE OF RAILROAD CONTRACT BY MORRISON-KNUDSEN AND ITS LOCAL  
JOINT VENTURE PARTNERS IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE LATER THIS MONTH.  
GOVERNMENT HOPES TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION THIS YEAR AND TO COMPLETE  
RAILROAD IN THREE YEARS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RAIL TRANSPORTATION  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 JAN 1976  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**TAGS:** BTIO, ETRD, EAID, ELTN, ECRE, US, NL, NS, MORRISON-KNUDSEN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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